

# **Elkhorn Area High School Co-Curricular Code of Conduct**

## **Mission**

Elkhorn Area Schools, in partnership with the community, are dedicated to providing an education that challenges every student to continually improve and to excel as a respectful, responsible, and productive member of society.

### **I. Elkhorn Area High School Co-Curricular Philosophy**

The Elkhorn Area School District sponsors and encourages student participation in co-curricular activities. Supplemental activities are important to the educational process as they provide a framework for the development of tolerance of others, self-realization, self-confidence, personal responsibility and positive attitudes that will prepare students for adult life in our society.

Participating in co-curricular activities is a privilege. Students who participate in co-curricular activities have responsibilities to their school, their peers, their community, their parents/guardians and to themselves. EAHS will strive to provide experiences for students to develop to their fullest potential, focusing on character, courage and integrity.

Students who choose to follow this co-curricular code of conduct are exposed to the following opportunities:

- Development of positive relationships and goodwill
- Development of leadership skills
- Development of skills pertaining to social and group interactions including problem solving and conflict resolution
- Personal growth
- Creativity
- Exposure to competition
- Development of individual skills
- Demonstration of honorable conduct and citizenship
- Development of understanding of the value of good physical health and conditioning

### **II. Honorable Conduct Expectations**

The honorable conduct expectations are designed to foster appropriate conduct from coaches, players, officials, cheerleaders, students, spectators, actors/actresses, backstage crew, and audience members. This is based on the belief that good conduct is essential to a successful high school extra curricular program, and it consists of the following fundamentals of conduct:

Opponents should be treated as guests, and accorded with respect, tolerance, honesty, and generosity, which all human beings deserve. Officials are to be treated with respect, and should be recognized as impartial arbitrators who are trained to do their job. Good conduct implies the willingness to accept and abide by the decisions of the officials.

Self-control must always be maintained. A prerequisite of honorable conduct requires one to understand his/her own bias or prejudice and the ability to prevent the desire to win from overcoming rational behavior. A proper perspective must be maintained if the potential educational values of co-curricular activities are to be realized; honorable conduct is concerned with the behavior of all involved.

Honorable conduct also means proper behavior at performances, musicals, and plays. This means as an audience member or backstage crew you show respect for the actors and actresses during a performance, musical, or play. This respect would include being quiet, turning off electronic devices, clapping when appropriate, and following the other proper performance etiquette.

### III. WIAA (Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association) Statement

Elkhorn Area High School, as a member of the WIAA, adheres to the regulations of that association which includes a year-round athletic code. Additional WIAA guidelines and regulation can be found at their web site: [www.wiaawi.org](http://www.wiaawi.org)

### IV. Academics

- Academic eligibility is determined by six-week grades as posted at the end of each of the six week grading period. Term grades are used for athletic eligibility.
- Two conditions must be met for a student to be considered academically eligible:
  - Two conditions must be met for a student to be considered academically eligible:
    - \* The student must receive a GPA of 1.65 or better.
    - \* The student has no more than 1 F.
- Incompletes are considered failing until class work is completed and grades are submitted to the counseling office.
- The date to determine eligibility is one day after the day that grades are posted to the counseling office.
- If a student does not have eligible status, he/she may not participate in any athletic/co-curricular contests (scrimmages are not considered as contests) for a period of 15 scheduled school days. Athletes: Athletes are expected to practice, and accompany teams to games at the coach's discretion. *For athletes: The student may not dress in uniform for competition or participate in warm-ups or competition during the period of suspension. Uniform consists of any team shirts, pants, warm-ups, etc. Instead, students are expected to dress in appropriate casual dress attire which does not include jeans, sweat pants/suit, sweatshirts or t-shirts.* Co-Curricular Participants: This period of ineligibility will include meetings. Category I participants may practice but may not participate in a performance or contest.
- Fall sports—The minimum ineligibility period shall be the lesser of (1) 21 consecutive calendar days beginning with the date of earliest allowed competition, or (2) one-third of the maximum number of games/meets allowed in a sport (fractions are to be rounded up).
- At the end of the 15 days of ineligibility, the athlete will take a current grade sheet around for each of his/her teachers to complete with current grades and signatures.

- If minimum academic requirements are achieved, the student is then eligible for competition. However, if the minimum requirements are not met, the student remains ineligible until he/she can show that minimum academic eligibility has been achieved and will be prohibited from practice as well as competition.
- An athlete may take a summer school class at Elkhorn or another accredited high school, or an acceptable online course, to offset the more than 1 F rule or the lower than 1.65 GPA. The summer school class must be related to the failed class(es). The additional grade(s) will be computed with the 6<sup>th</sup> term grade to determine their GPA.
- The high school Principal reserves the authority to evaluate academic eligibility on a case-by-case basis due to extenuating circumstances.

## **V. WIAA Residency Regulations**

The WIAA has an extensive description of the many scenarios which can occur regarding residency and student transfers. Their policy is adhered to by Elkhorn Area High School.

## **VI. Physical Regulations**

- Each athlete must have on file, in his/her school, evidence of having passed a physical examination administered by a licensed physician or by an Advanced Practice Nurse Prescriber or Physician Assistant authorized by a licensed MD to perform the physical and a signed parental permission card.
- The student/athlete is expected to report any injury, regardless of how minor, to his/her coach or Athletic Director (AD) immediately.
- An athlete removed from participation due to injury and/or illness and seeks follow-up medical treatment from an MD, APNP or Physician Assistant must submit a written release from a provider before returning to participation.
- For an injury that requires a claim, the parent/guardian must file with his/her insurance carrier first. The school provides secondary coverage through the purchase of each activity pass.
- All information pertaining to an athlete's physical condition will be confidential.
- Any student having a head injury or concussion must be cleared by a physician before returning to practice or competition.

## **VII. Attendance**

To be eligible for any co-curricular competition, meeting, or practice, a student is required to meet the following:

- Attend his/her 1<sup>st</sup> hour class on time
- Be in attendance every period of the day
- Exemptions include: doctor's appointment, dentist appointment, funeral, driver's licensing test, religious observations, accident, college visit, school-related function, emergency excuses approved through the administration.
- It is the responsibility of the student/parent to see that his/her absences are properly explained to the attendance office or athletic office prior to participation.
- Students who have medical excuse for release from physical education may not participate in practice or games/meets of the interscholastic program.

## **VIII. Training and Conduct**

The Elkhorn Area School District encourages each student to pursue excellence not only in academic and co-curricular areas, but also in the areas of conduct and behavior. The following actions and behaviors are unacceptable and shall result in suspension from competition:

- Selling, providing, possessing, transporting, consuming or using alcoholic beverages, controlled substances or tobacco products. Use of E-cigarettes is also considered unacceptable and will be treated in the same manner as other violations.
- A student who has a gathering at his/her home/property where alcohol or drugs are being used will be given a penalty at the next highest level above the level s/he would normally receive. Example: If a student hosts a party, provides illegal substances and it is the student's first violation, since the party was at his/her home/property, the student would be given a violation as his/her second offense.
- Commits/participates in acts of theft or vandalism toward the school, school district, district personnel or any affiliates of school districts with whom we compete.
- Commits any act in violation of or subject to penalties of local ordinances and/or Wisconsin State Statutes with the exclusion of violations of the motor vehicle code.
- Persistent disruptive behavior or any act or behavior in violation of or subject to penalties under the Elkhorn Area High School District policies.
- Commits an act of hazing—as defined by Wisconsin's Anti-Hazing Law 948.51-- against another student where a student is coerced into committing an act that creates a substantial risk of harm to a student or other third party in order for the student to be admitted or initiated into, or affiliated with any school group, club, athletic team, grade level, activity or organization. This includes but is not limited to:
  - Any actions involving behavior of a sexual nature or simulation of actions of a sexual nature.
  - Any action that subjects a student to an unreasonable level of embarrassment, shame, or humiliation or which creates a hostile, abusive and intimidating environment for the student including through the use of electronic media such as cell phones, text messaging, internet sites, or audio or video postings.
  - Any activity involving any violation of federal, state or local law or any violation of school district policies and regulations]
- Cyber Image Violations: Any identifiable image, language, photo, or video which implicates a participant to have been in possession or presence of drugs and/or alcohol or portrays actual use; or out of character behavior or crime, shall be confirmation of a violation of the code.

## **IX. Athletic Code Reporting and Investigation**

- When an alleged violation of the co-curricular code is reported to an administrator or athletic director, the allegation must be written and signed by the witness or accuser. An administrator/athletic director shall arrange a conference with the student to take place within 5 days or a reasonable amount of time after the allegation has been made. The student in question may continue to practice and compete until the initial conference is held.

- The Principal/Designee shall have the discretion to modify the minimum penalty based on the nature of the offense.
- 

### **X. Penalties for Violations—Athletics**

Number of Scheduled Contests	First Violation—1/3	Second Violation—2/3	Third or Additional Violations
8	2	5	Students will be suspended from all athletic activities for one calendar year from the date of violation.
9	3	6	
10	3	6	
11	3	7	
12	4	8	
13	4	8	
14	4	9	
15	5	10	
16	5	10	
17	5	11	
18	6	12	
19	6	12	
20	6	13	
21	7	14	
22	7	14	
23	7	14	
24	8	16	
25	8	16	
26	8	16	

*\*Does not include WIAA tournament contests.*

*\*\*Upon receiving 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> violation related to substance abuse, students will be encouraged to seek an ATODA assessment and/or counseling.*

- When a suspension penalty cannot be completed within a sport season, including the WIAA tournament, that penalty will continue into the athlete’s next sport season. The total number of contests missed will be based on the first sport in which the violator participates.
- Athletes must complete the season in good standing to satisfy the penalty requirements.
- Because of questions relating to tournaments, doubleheaders, postponed games and multi-game events, the following interpretation will be used: Penalties will be in terms of games, not events. Therefore, an athlete could miss part of a day’s activities and be eligible to participate once the penalty is completed. When the suspension is part of a multi-event day, the penalty is invoked on the earliest scheduled games.

- If an athlete is suspended for any reason, and that suspension includes a WIAA tournament, he/she is immediately disqualified for the remainder of the total tournament series in that sport.
- A coach may not impose a penalty on an athlete which is more severe than the athletic code has outlined.
- A student who violates an athletic team training rule during the athletic season would not be eligible for nomination of special awards or be a recipient of special awards at the conclusion of the season. (Letters, bars and certificates are not considered special awards.) In addition, a student who violates a training rule may not serve as a captain during the season of the violation. If the violation occurs after the season, but before that team's awards celebration, special awards will not be given.
- If a violation is committed while serving a suspension, the penalty for the second violation will be imposed at the conclusion of the first penalty.
- An athletic code violation and an academic eligibility penalty may be served concurrently.

## **XI. Appeal Procedures**

Discipline decisions regarding code violations taken against a student may be appealed by a parent/guardian and/or student to the High School Athletic Director. Questions regarding if an offense has occurred, extenuating circumstances or unjust sanctions imposed may be appealed.

- The Athletic Director must receive a written appeal no later than 5 days from receipt of the student's written infraction notification.
- The accused will be considered ineligible for competition during the appeal process.
- The Athletic Director will assemble an appeals committee. The appeals committee will consist of an Assistant Principal, two students, two teachers, and one varsity coach.
- The accused may have parents and/or witnesses present.
- The appeals procedure will be conducted by the Athletic Director. Evidence of the alleged violation will be presented. The accused may then present their argument as to their innocence or reasoning why the penalty should be lessened.
- The committee may ask questions to assist them in determining guilt or non-guilt. These questions can also help in determining the penalty that would be assessed.
- Upon completion of the appeal procedure and a decision has been made, the accused may appeal the committee's decision to the Principal within two days of the committee's decision. The Principal, after reviewing and/or investigating the committee's record may modify the determination.

## **XII. Equipment**

Students are responsible to turn in or pay replacement cost for all equipment issued to them for all activities/athletics. The student will not be allowed out for the next sport or activity until these responsibilities are met.

## **XIII. Travel**

All students are required to use the mode of transportation provided by the school while involved in interscholastic athletics. Elkhorn Area High School will assume no responsibility for any student who misses his/her mode of transportation to a contest and

attempts to travel to the contest site on his/her own. Special requests from parents must be directed to the Athletic Director or Administration.

**XIV. Penalties for Violations—Co-curricular Activities**

Category I Activities: Activities in which students have the opportunity to compete or participate in competitions.

- First offense: The student will lose participation in the first chronological event in which he/she is involved in at the time of or following his/her violation.
- Second offense: Dismissal for 90 school days from the time of violation in all category I activities.
- Third offense: Dismissal from participation in all category I activities for one calendar year from the time of violation.

Category II Activities: All elected and/or appointed positions.

- First Offense: Student will lose elected office and/or membership in organization for remainder of the school year.

Category III Activities: Any activity other than Category I or II.

- First offense: Loss of membership privileges in all category III activities for 45 school days.
- Second offense: Loss of membership privileges in all category III activities for 90 school days.
- Third offense: Loss of membership in all category III activities for one calendar year from the time of violation.

---

If you are a student participating in a school activity or school organization, you are required to have a signed code on file in order to participate.

\*\*Athletes: Please sign your physical form or alternate year card.

I certify that I have read, understand, and agree to abide by all of the information contained in this code. I further certify that if I have not understood any information contained in this code, I have sought and received an explanation of the information prior to signing this statement.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Participant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date